

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7-8 are amended, and new claims 18-20 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saitoh (U.S. Patent No. 5,741,615; hereinafter "Saitoh '615"); and rejects claims 6 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saitoh '615 in view of Saitoh (U.S. Patent No. 5,417,770; hereinafter "Saitoh '770"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that Saitoh '615 and Saitoh '770, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a photoelectric transducer or an iron silicide film wherein at least a composition ratio between an iron atom and a silicon atom is in a range from 1:1.7 to 1:3.5, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7-8.

Saitoh '615 merely discloses a light receiving layer being composed of a non-Si material containing iron atoms in an amount of 0.9 atomic ppm or less. Accordingly, Saitoh '615 fails to disclose a composition ratio between an iron atom and a silicon atom in a range from 1:1.7 to 1:3.5, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7-8.

Saitoh '770 also fails to disclose the above feature, and therefore, fails to make up for the deficiencies of Saitoh '615.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Saitoh '615 and Saitoh '770, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 7-8.

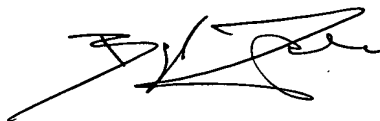
In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 7-8 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-6 and 9-20 depend from claims 1 and 7-8, respectively, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional

features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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